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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press release issued today by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of another anniversary of the illegitimate occupation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 21.

(*Signed*) Diego **Limeres**
Minister
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

3 January 2007

On 3 January 1833, British forces occupied the Malvinas Islands, expelling their inhabitants and the Argentine authorities legitimately settled there. The Argentine Republic immediately protested, and has never consented to that act of force.

Today, 174 years after that illegitimate occupation, which continues to this day, the Argentine people and Government once again reaffirm the Argentine Republic's imprescriptible rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of Argentine national territory.

They also recall the permanent and unrelinquishable objective, enshrined in the Argentine National Constitution, of recovering the full exercise of sovereignty over the aforesaid territories and maritime areas, in accordance with the principles of international law while respecting the way of life and interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. This permanent objective is a State policy and reflects the collective desire of the Argentine people.

For decades, and notably over the last 25 years, the United Nations and the Organization of American States, among other forums, have urged Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume bilateral negotiations with a view to finding, as soon as possible, a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute.

On the understanding that cooperation on practical aspects of the dispute would help create a climate favourable to the resumption of negotiations aimed at settling the dispute, Argentina has reached bilateral understandings of a practical nature with the United Kingdom, under the sovereignty formula. However, the United Kingdom continues to refuse to address the question of sovereignty and has increasingly taken unilateral actions, which do not contribute to bilateral cooperation and are also contrary to the call by the United Nations to refrain from adopting unilateral measures.

Argentina considers that the United Kingdom's refusal to address the question of sovereignty is incomprehensible, and therefore reiterates its permanent willingness to resume negotiations immediately with a view to settling the dispute in accordance with the numerous pronouncements by the international community on the matter.